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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/609)]

51/58. The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/90 of 16 December 1992 and 49/155 of 23 December 1994,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends,[1]

Recognizing that cooperatives in their various forms are becoming a major factor of economic and social development by promoting the fullest possible participation in the development process of women and all population groups, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities, and are increasingly providing an effective and affordable mechanism for meeting people's needs for basic social services,

Recognizing also the important contribution and potential of all forms of cooperatives to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[2] the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995[3] and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996,[4]

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[1] A/51/267.

[2] See A/CONF.166/9.

[3] See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

[4] See A/CONF.165/14.

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends;

2. Urges Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies, in collaboration with national and international cooperative organizations, to give due consideration to the role and contribution of cooperatives in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) by, inter alia:

(a) Utilizing and developing fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration;

(b) Encouraging and facilitating the development of cooperatives, including taking measures aimed at enabling people living in poverty or belonging to vulnerable groups to engage on a voluntary basis in the creation and development of cooperatives;

3. Encourages Governments to keep under review the legal and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives with a view to ensuring a supportive environment for cooperatives, so that they can make an appropriate contribution to the attainment of the goals of national development, including that of meeting the basic human needs of all;

4. Invites Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and national and international cooperative organizations to continue to observe annually the International Day of Cooperatives on the first Saturday of July, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/90;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to continue to support the goals and objectives of the cooperative movement and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Commission on Social Development, a report containing, inter alia, information on legislative and administrative initiatives taken by countries, bearing in mind possible measures to improve the reporting procedure;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ascertain, in cooperation with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, the desirability and feasibility of elaborating United Nations guidelines aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives and to include his findings and recommendations in his report referred to in paragraph 5 above.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996